



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Mid Coast volunteers to be recognised for long service

9 April 2019

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Mid Coast District will tonight recognise and celebrate the dedication and commitment of long serving members.

Member for Myall Lakes Stephen Bromhead, representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott, and NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM will join local volunteers to present 36 NSW RFS Long Service Medals and 10 National Medals at a special ceremony this evening.

“These 45 members do not volunteer their time for the accolades, however these medals are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment shown by these individuals over the years,” Mr Bromhead said.

“More than 959 years of service will be recognised and I know that the community is thankful for the world-class level of fire protection afforded to them by volunteers across the Mid Coast.

“I personally extend my gratitude to all of our dedicated firefighters for their continued service to and for the community.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons is honoured to present David Alan Witt with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Clasp of his NSW RFS Long Service Medal.

“David has been a dedicated volunteer member of the NSW RFS for 41 years after joining the Allworth Brigade in 1978, and has been instrumental in the Limeburners Brigade after being a founding member in 1989,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“His dedication and local knowledge is invaluable in the protection of the local community.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons also acknowledged the contribution of Douglas (Bruce) Weller, who receives the 4<sup>th</sup> Clasp of his National Medal in recognition of this 56 years of service to the community.

“Douglas has been a dedicated member of the NSW RFS for an exceptional period of time, for which we are truly grateful,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“He has previously been awarded Life Membership of the Nabic Brigade, of which he was a founding member and recently also joined the neighbouring Minimbah Brigade, where he is Captain.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that each volunteer being recognised tonight has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community.

“I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the NSW RFS staff and volunteers who continue to work hard for their communities.

“The Mid Coast area has seen a busy fire season locally and further afield with deployments across NSW and interstate.

“We must also thank the family, friends, employers and colleagues of these and all volunteers. We know it takes their support to help Rural Fire Service members do what they do.”

**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855**  
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